

MEETING WITH SOVIET RUSSIAN EXCHANGE STUDENTS IN SYRACUSE
UNIVERSITY IN MARCH 1965.

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During the first week of March, 1965 an International students week was held at the University of Syracuse. The beginning of the International week was the 5 of March. The Ukrainian student club at the University had prepared a cultural exhibit for this week. When the Soviet students were informed that the Ukrainian club was planning such an exhibit, they asked the leaders of the club to have a meeting with them. Present at the meeting from the Ukrainian club were: Ihor Hapiy, and Mykola Dypliak. From the Soviets there were the two students YULIN and PIROZIN. The Soviet students explained that they were also preparing an exhibit, and protested against the exhibit being prepared by the Ukrainian club for the following reasons:

1. They (the Soviet students) represent the USSR.
2. Ukraine is a vital part of the USSR.
3. The Soviet students compared Ukraine to Texas in the USA.
4. The government of the UkSSR does not have diplomatic relations with the US.
5. Only they are from the USSR.
6. The Ukrainian club cannot represent Ukraine because they left Ukraine a long time ago.

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The representatives of the Ukrainian club did not agree with the Soviet students and the matter was taken before the head of the International students organization. The head (a South Korean) rejected the Soviet protest, and told the Ukrainian students that he understands their problem. Therefore at the exhibit there were two separate exhibits, one from the USSR, and one from Ukraine. These drew from the students of the University a mixed reaction.

At the exhibit one of the Ukrainian students listened to the discussion between the Soviet students and the Americans on the topic of freedom of discussion and movement in the USSR. He noticed that it is relatively easy to put doubts

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into the minds of American students if they are not acquainted with the Soviet system. Later this Ukrainian student talked with the Soviets and they tried to convince him that in the USSR all nationalities had equal rights. They said that on all international exhibits all the republics were represented, When the Ukrainian student brought up the fact that in the Olympic games the Ukraine is not represented seperatly, the Soviets said that it is represented collectivly as a part of the USSR, and that in this way it is a stronger team. They argued that there is no Russification, and that there are no people deported from the Ukraine to Kazakstan, or Siberia.

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